

processor being provided with realtime parameters that are used in providing previously selected route between the starting point and the destination point that is selected prior to beginning traversing the route;

a global positioning system (GPS) providing a set of current location data corresponding to the current location of the vehicle;

the data processor providing an alternative route to the destination point based upon the set of current location data, user preference data and a set of updated realtime parameters that provides the user with the alternative route while traversing the previously selected route wherein the set of real time parameters are used by the data processor depending upon availability in calculating an alternate route, comparing the previously selected route to the alternate route, and providing information to driver to evaluate and select between the previously selected route and the alternate route only when the alternate route would provide a predetermined improvement in efficiency as measured by the user preference data.

2. (Amended) The navigation system of claim 1 wherein the user preference data comprises one of the following criteria: shortest time, shortest distance, maximizing use of freeways, minimizing use of freeways, maximizing use of toll roads, and minimizing use of toll roads.

5. (Amended) A method of navigating to a destination utilizing a data processing system:

inputting a starting location;

inputting a destination location;

inputting a set of real time parameters;

inputting a set of user preferences;

calculating at least one route from the starting location to the destination location including factoring in the effect of the real time parameters and user preferences;

selecting one of the routes and traveling along a selected route toward the destination;

updating the set of real time parameters to create an updated set of real time parameters while traveling along the selected route;

calculating an alternate route from an intermediate location to the destination location based upon the updated set of real time parameters;

comparing the selected route to the alternate route; and

providing information to a driver to evaluate and choose between the selected route and the alternate route, the choice of the driver thereafter being the selected route for the continuation of traveling to the destination location wherein the steps of updating the set of real time parameters, calculating an alternate route, comparing the previously selected route to the alternate route, are repeated in response to each update of the real time parameters while traveling along the selected route and the step of providing information to the driver to evaluate and select between the previously selected route and the alternate route is repeated only when the alternate route would provide a predetermined degree of improvement in efficiency in reference to at least one selected user preference.

7. The method of navigating to a destination of claim 5 wherein the step of providing information to the user is repeated only when the alternate route results in a reduction of the time of travel from the intermediate location to the destination location.

8. The method of navigating to a destination of claim 5 wherein the step of providing information to the user is repeated only when the alternate route results in a reduction of the cost of travel from the intermediate location to the destination location.